

WAR!

The war has commenced. We are rejoiced to know that the first blow was struck by the enemy, and that on them the responsibility rests. The attack on Fort Sumter has touched the national pride in a tender spot.— We do not see how the country can be saved from the evils and horrors of a civil war. Bad as is this state of things, it is better than the demoralization and anarchy which must exist without this "last appeal." Now that war exists, we want to see it pushed on with earnestness and effect. There should be no delays or sham fights, but resolute and determined action. Gen. Scott's words will as well apply now, as when he went to Mexico, to "CONQUER A PEACE." If we would enjoy the blessings of peace, to obtain them we must fight, and fight earnestly too. No dallyings, no delays, but a resolute go-ahead enterprise only, will win the day. The facilities of modern transportation and modern warfare allow of rapid work. Our government must enter on the campaign with true Napoleonic vigor, and the war will be a short one. Unless it do so it will be long and bloody. Let there be no negotiations, no armistice, until such a blow is struck as will lead to a peaceful settlement of all our difficulties and re-unite the fragments of the Union. Let there be no listening to proposals for recognition of another government on the soil of the United States. This must not be. There can be no such settlement. Nature and Providence speak against it. The flow of our great rivers to the South, bearing on their bosoms the products of the north, proclaims against it. Our common historic and traditional associations repudiate such a division. We must be reunited, or rather, we must never acknowledge a division. Let those who have instigated the traitorous movement meet a traitor's doom.— Modern warfare is but the application of scientific skill in the manufacture and use of its instruments. Inventive genius prevails in the northern States and hardly has an existence in those of the south. The occasion will bring out new improvements in arms which will be available. It is by the use of this scientific and mechanical skill, joined with rapid and energetic action, that what has usually been a conflict of years may be brought to a termination in weeks or months.

Danvers Volunteers.

On Sunday morning last, the two Danvers companies marched, with drum and life, to the Congregational Church in that place, where they listened to an instructive and patriotic discourse from the Rev. Mr. Fletcher. The tap of the drum sounded somewhat novel for a New England Sabbath, but the services, for all that, were undoubtedly participated in by the patriotic volunteers with feelings of appreciation and reverence. These companies are composed of men who present a remarkably fine appearance, and who may be confidently relied upon to endure the hardships of a campaign. One company appeared in a blue, and the other in a grey, uniform; and both marched with admirable precision on their way to, and on entering, the church. One of these companies is called the Danvers Light Infantry, and the other the Putnam Guards, commanded by Capt. A. A. Putnam. They have for some time been drilling under the instruction of Major Foster of Salem. The Guards are to be presented, this afternoon, with a beautiful and costly silk flag. It is the gift of Miss Catherine Putnam of Peterboro', N. H., a venerable lady 84 years of age, a descendant of Gen. Putnam. The flag will be presented by Mr. Philbrick of Boston, Superintendent of the Public Schools. After the presentation of the flag, Rev. A. P. Putnam of Roxbury will present each member of the company with a copy of the New Testament and the Psalms. The occasion is expected to be one of unusual interest, and will undoubtedly attract a large crowd.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 28; '61.

DEAR PARENTS: I have at last got a chance to write you a few lines. I am in good health and spirits and have not been homesick since I started. I am having the best time that ever I had in my life, and would not come back until the Company came, for a hundred dollars.— We all arrived here safe and sound excepting the Captain and Lieut. Kirk Stark. The Captain we left in Annapolis with a lame leg, and Stark was taken sick in New York just as we were about leaving. All that I feel bad about is that there is no chance for us to have a fight with the sculpins, as there are about 20,000

~~troops here to guard the city and they will be~~
troops here to guard the city and they will be
afraid to come near us; but if they should
come they will get cleaned out quicker than
they expected, for a fight. Last Wednesday
evening, we took a little walk to give us an
appetite. We marched from Annapolis to
Washington, the distance being forty-one miles
good and strong. I have a good meal every
day now and I intend to as long as my money
holds out, and it will hold out a little while
longer. There was one of the rebels killed here
the other night. He fired at one of the rifle-
men who was on guard, and missed him, upon
which the latter brought his rifle up and put a
ball right through his heart. But I must end
here as they are calling me to go on guard.—
In writing this I have had to use a stone step
for a writing desk.

Yours,

DAVID PEIRCE.

cently received from soldiers of this place, who are in the 5th and 8th Massachusetts Regiments:

WASHINGTON, April 28th, '61.

DEAR FRIENDS: After a tiresome journey of eight days, I have at last found an opportunity to redeem my promise of writing to you. I arrived in this city last night. The incidents that have occurred on my journey would fill a dozen letters, but I will give you a brief outline only. We left Salem on Saturday morning and took up our quarters at Faneuil Hall, Boston, where we stayed until Sunday morning at 5 o'clock, when we took the cars for New York, via Worcester, Springfield, Hartford and New Haven. All along the route we saw such enthusiasm as I never witnessed before. It seemed more like Fourth of July than Sunday. At every station along the railway, immense crowds of people were gathered—cannon fired—bells rung—handkerchiefs waved and every demonstration of joy made. We arrived in New York, preceded to the Astor House, took supper and then embarked on board the steamship De Soto, bound for Annapolis, Md. After a rough passage of three days we reached our destination and landed safe and sound.—Since the 6th Regiment was attacked in Baltimore, the State authorities have forbidden the passage of troops through it. The consequence is that all the commerce of Baltimore is diverted to Annapolis, so that not a dollar's worth of any kind of stuff reaches Baltimore. The number of steamers at Annapolis, when I arrived, was over twenty, all loaded with troops and provisions.

The distance from Annapolis to Washington is forty miles. The Railroad tracks were broken up, engines torn to pieces, and every thing that could be done to hinder the passage of troops was done. But when they thought to stop Yankees, they found they were mistaken. Mechanics of every kind being in the Massachusetts regiments, they went to work, laid tracks, put engines together, &c. One man in our Company assisted in putting together an engine he had helped build in Boston. As there were not cars for the whole of the regiment, a portion of the men, including ourselves, started on foot for the Capital. We had gone about half a mile, when *whizz!* went a rifle ball, followed by another, and another, and some of the men began to look round, I tell you. It was in the night, but the moon shone brightly, and we pushed along at a brisk pace. When we had gone about twenty miles, we caught the train up-side down on an embankment, and we halted. The men went to work, put on the engine, cleared the track, and left about twenty men of each company to guard the road.—The way they do this, is, to leave men one day for the service, and when the next regiment comes, take them along and leave others in their places, and so on continually. The Massachusetts men are all in fine spirits. I never felt better in all my life. I do not think there will be much fighting. There are many Union men in the South who only wait for the chance to express themselves. The secession movement here is in the hands of a mob. Men of property are held under constraint through fear of violence. But I must close by remarking one singular fact: that is, all the ladies are in favor of Union strongly. My respects to all, and hoping to see you before long, I remain

Yours, &c.,

H. W. VERRY.

[City Guards.]

5th REGIMENT, WASHINGTON, Apr. 28, 61.

Now is the first time I have had an opportunity to write to you. We left Boston at 5 o'clock Sunday morning for New York. We were received with great applause at every station and supplied with every thing we wanted to eat and drink. Went on board the ferry boat at 2 o'clock Monday morning and arrived at Annapolis at 9 o'clock, on Wednesday morning. Wednesday night, slept on the brick side-walk all night. We left Annapolis at 9 o'clock and arrived at the Junction, about twenty miles at 2 o'clock and marched eighteen miles without breakfast and went to sleep on the Railroad — The cars came along and brought us to Washington. Our regiment has the Treasury building and we may stay here three months. Respects to all. I write with a stick.

E. H. HILDRETH.

[Mechanic Lt. Infantry.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 28, '61.

We went to New York by Railroad and found the whole country awake. In every town of any size, salutes were fired, bands of music were playing, crowds cheering, and in fact it appeared like Fourth of July, only more so. In New York they were perfectly wild, three Regiments having left there that day.— We left New York Monday morning at 4 o'clock and arrived at Annapolis Wednesday morning about 10 o'clock, and landed at the Naval Academy and found it one of the most beautiful places I ever saw. About three thousand troops left the next morning after we arrived, and we left in the evening at about 8 o'clock and then came the tug, for the rails had been torn up by the rebels and the 8th Regiment had been re-laying them and running the train. We rode about seventeen miles and expected to be attacked every moment, but the military guarded the track most of the way and we got through safe to the Junction. We then had twenty-two miles to go and no train being present we concluded to march, and did so until within ten miles of Washington, when we halted for a train to come back which we met in the morning. On our march we had but four companies, the others not being able to get aboard the train. When the cars went back for them, a rail had been taken up, which threw the train off the track so that they did not arrive till yesterday forenoon. When we arrived within twelve miles of Washington, the Col. had positive information that we were to be attacked at the next town by 150 riflemen behind trees and we loaded our muskets to be prepared for them, but we did not see them.— Yesterday a gentleman told me they were there waiting for us, but they were on the main road, and missed an encounter by reason of our taking the Railroad track because we did not know the way by the main road. Our Regiment is quartered at the Treasury to guard Uncle Sam's money bags. We are having a good easy time and go where we have a mind to, but to-morrow we take the oath and then I suppose they will be more strict with us. It is a beautiful place here and we have good quarters and easy duty though if the rebels attack the city we shall have to fight. The citizens have no fear of this now but they have been a good deal frightened, as a part of Davis' army has been as near as Alexandria on their way, but the northern troops began to arrive so fast that the southerners turned back. By the conversation of people on the day of our arrival, we could see that they were greatly relieved.— I took a walk yesterday to the Capitol and the Monument and was well paid for my trouble. In regard to the Capitol, it would take two or three days to go over it and see all that could be seen. The lower part is now used to store flour and provisions, which makes it look like a wholesale flour and grain store. I hope you will excuse my writing this in pencil, but the pens and ink are all in use and I am sitting on a pile of blankets with my knee for a writing-desk, so you see that I have things in shape.— Lieut. Simonds of the Army is now in our quarters and says we shall now have no attack, but that if Harper's Ferry had not been destroyed the rebels would have been in Washington in twenty-four hours, but the burning of the arms put a veto on it. I don't know as I can write much more at present, for the men interrupt me so much that I cannot collect my thoughts.

JAMES H. ESTES.

[Serg't Mech. Lt. Infantry.]

IOWA VOLUNTEERS.—We give below some extracts from a letter by a western volunteer formerly of this town:

GOVERNOR'S GREYS' HEADQUARTERS,

Davenport, Iowa, April 30, '61.

We have had a very fatiguing drill this morning and are now dismissed one hour, at which time we "fall in" for dinner. I am pretty tired and shall not probably write a very long or interesting letter at this time, although it was my intention to have given you a description of our new mode of life and living. We have a large company of 102 men rank and file, and as many of them are *raw recruits*, we are kept hard at work drilling them for service. We are now under strict army regulations. All our company sleep in the third story of a warehouse in bunks arranged on each side of the room, with plenty of straw and a blanket or quilt for each man. At 5 o'clock A. M., the "reveille" is beaten and all hands (to use a nautical phrase) are piped to prayers, as we have a clergyman in our ranks who officiates as chaplain; after which we march to our mess-room for breakfast, where we find two long tables well supplied with tin cups, plates, knives and forks, beef, bread and butter. The men form on either side and such a charge you never saw. After breakfast we march to our armory or parade ground and drill until about noon; take an hour for rest, smoking, &c., and then drill until supper-time, when it is again "fall in" and our regular beef, bread and coffee are again gone through with. It reminds me much of my first week at sea, so strict are our regulations, but I had weighed the matter well and I am not at all disappointed. I am bound to be satisfied with everything. I have now become somewhat used to the life and like it first-rate. We expect our tents and camp equipage this week when we shall go into camp. I am anxious for that time to come.

Cairo will probably be our destination, and depend upon it that if there is any hard fighting to be done, that is the point. I was happy to learn that the Old Bay State responded so promptly. I have no fears but that she will give a good account of herself. I thought of going east and joining my old company the Cadets, but as we were first ordered, I thought I would go with them. Give my regards to all my friends in arms and tell them I hope to join them at the end of three months in a triumphal march through Jeff. Davis' domains under the glorious old Flag.

On Sunday most of our company attended church to hear our chaplain preach. In the afternoon quite a number of the Greys visited the ruins of an old Fort erected by Gen. Scott during the Blackhawk war and situated on an island immediately opposite this city. In the evening the Greys together with the Davenport Artillery attended the Baptist Church and heard a regular war sermon. Eight American Flags decorated the pulpit and orchestra. The two Companies marched into the church with drum and fife playing "Yankee Doodle." "Our Country" and the "Star Spangled Banner" were sung by the choir, cheers were given, &c. It did not seem much like Sunday in the city.

Enough companies have already been offered the Governor to fill three Regiments although but one was called for. He will immediately fill up two. Some 60 ladies of Dubuque are very busy making us blankets, underclothing, uniforms, &c., and they kindly sent us a large amount of cake, hams, &c., for our last Sunday's dinner. I can assure you the viands were well relished and the generosity of the fair donors gratefully appreciated.

H. P.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5th, '61.

The boys are in first-rate spirits being ready to fight or eat. Gen. Butler was here yesterday looking around. He has been ordered with the 6th Regiment and other troops to the Relay House, about nine miles from Baltimore, to act in conjunction with the Pennsylvania troops on the other side of the city. We have heard that we were to go to Richmond or Annapolis, but it is decided that we are to remain here for the present. Probably when we leave Washington it will be for Annapolis. I have just returned from church with the Regiment, and the Adjutant took us to task for coughing in church, but he got picked up on that, for most every man of us has got a cough, and it did make considerable noise. We have got first-rate quarters in the second story of the Treasury

Building. We have a fine view from our windows. The White House is within a dozen rods of us and is a very pleasant place. The President was in to see us the other day and seemed to be very much pleased with the Regiment. The first three days that we were here, we had liberty to go where we pleased, but I did not go into the public Buildings excepting the Capitol, thinking I should have plenty of time to go, but since then I have been pretty busy attending to my duties. I found the 7th New York and the 6th and 8th Mass. Regiments quartered there. Since then the 7th has gone into camp on Georgetown Heights, which they say is a splendid place. The 6th went this morning to the Relay House, as I told you. It is the greatest place here for mud and negroes that I ever saw. Negroes are as thick as fleas, and every time there comes a little rain the mud is six inches deep. I found that out yesterday as we marched two miles or more to find a place large enough and decent enough to drill upon. I don't know as I can find much to interest you, so I will begin to haul up. I have not yet received a letter or paper from home, but a great many of the boys have, and you ought to see the rush when the package of letters is brought into the room, which happens twice a day. It seems very pleasant to hear from the friends we have left behind and see how cheerfully they write to their relatives so far from them, not knowing that they will ever see them again. We have a Company of Cavalry quartered in this building. The bugles are now playing for supper and I must bring this to a close.

J. H. ESTES.

WASHINGTON, May 8th, 1861.

DEAR BROTHER.

I received your letter this morning and was very glad to hear that you were all well. I have been almost sick with a cold the past two days, but I feel almost as well as ever to day. You wished me to write about how we are situated in regard to provisions and clothing. When we were on board the steamer Ariel, on our way from New York to Annapolis the living was rather poor, we got nothing but hard dry bread and half cooked salt pork and beef, of the poorest, quality with an occasional cup of very poor coffee. I think it was owing to mismanagement more than anything else, for I know there was plenty of good plain food on board. I do not think any one need to go hungry if there had been any order at all. When there was anything to eat it was "rush up and grab," and those that stood nearest got most. When we arrived in Annapolis and received our three days rations, some of the companies wasted their rations. One of the principal difficulties is, some of them came out here thinking they would live the same as they had been living at home, but they have found their mistake by this time. A great many of the soldiers have never seen any hardships, and it seems harder for them than it does for me, although they all hold out bravely. When we were sworn in, there was only one man in the whole regiment, that did not hold up his hand, and he understood it was for five years instead of three months, but as soon as he understood about it he was as willing as any one. I acknowledge we had rather a tough time until we got here, but now we have enough to eat and drink of good plain fare. Some of them still continue to grumble, but you know there is a certain class that will grumble if you give them the best of anything. Some think it hard because we have to sleep on the floor or rather on a blanket, instead of a bed, but we cannot expect everything to suit our fancies in a soldier's life, for my part I have no fault to find. About clothing, we have not received any yet but expect to this week. I have not suffered for anything since I left home. I was very glad to hear you are so patriotic at home, and

as for ourselves, I will guarantee that the 5th regiment if it has to fight, every man will do his best to make southern blood run in rivers. For my part I only want to get the chance, and I'll bet I don't miss a shot; and if it comes to close quarters, then I'll take the polish off of my bayonet. I hope we shall get a chance at them before we come back, but they say we will be kept where we are until we start for home. You ask me if I have got a revolver. No I have not; most of our company have, but I was not lucky enough to get one. I have no doubt but that they would be handy in close quarters, but as I have not got one, I shall do without.

I am in first rate spirits, as are all of our company. Our company alone have written over fifty letters to day.

Give my respect to all inquiring friends, and tell father and mother, I am all right and shall not back out as long as I can crawl.

Yours in haste,

DENNISON P. MOORE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 7, '61.

DEAR SIR:—I arrived at New York with the Regiment, two weeks ago, and was compelled to stop there for a time, unable to proceed farther with the companies. I was taken with cramp colic and compelled to remain at the Astor House, two days. After which I made arrangements to proceed to Annapolis in company with the N. Y. 8th Regiment, Col. Lyons. I had six men belonging to our Regiment. Arrived at Annapolis on Friday week and reported to Gen. Butler for duty. Was put in command of twenty-six men to act as a Picket Guard upon the Railroad at the point where the cars were recently thrown off the track by the secessionists. I joined my Regiment last Friday and took command of the Company, as Capt. Danforth is sick at Annapolis.

We are quartered at the U. S. Treasury Building and are compelled to live upon smoked hog and bread and coffee. We have for a bed the soft side of a hard-pine board floor.—We call it rough. The boys are in good health and spirits and glad to hear from home. We are very short of clothing, money, &c.

Tell the folks not to give up yet, for I feel the inspiration of the blood of Gen. John Stark in me, and will do my duty to God and man in upholding the Union, the Constitution, and the enforcement of the Laws of these United States. Tell my folks that I am well and feel at home in one sense, and hope to meet you all again in glory.

KIRK STARK.

[Lieut. 8th Co. 5th Reg.]

Iowa Regiment.

STEAMER "HAWK EYE STATE, May 5th.

DEAR SIR: I have just taken possession of the Clerk's office of this splendid steamer, to let you know that we are now on our way South, "floating down the Mississippi." Three companies, viz. the "Governor's Greys" and "Jackson Guards" of Dubuque, and a German Company from Davenport, left the latter city this morning in the midst of booming of cannon, cheers, farewells and any quantity of rain and wind. We are now at the levee in Burlington, taking on freight, and the 300 troops are gathered in groups of from two to one hundred, and entertaining themselves in various ways. I cannot realize that it is Sunday, for such a day I have never passed before. I have spent the greater part of the time in my state-room (for being quarter-master I succeeded in getting one) reading and sleeping, much preferring that to mixing with the crowd. It has been a day to give any one the "blues," but still I do not and never have regretted the step I have taken and were I now pleasantly situated in Dubuque or elsewhere, the first thing I would do would be to enlist in some company destined for active service in defending our glorious "Flag" and "Constitution." But I have not yet told you where we are bound, and before I forget it I will do so. Within a few days the Governor has received several letters from Keokuk and vicinity, stating that some of our border towns have been threatened by secessionists from Missouri; and as Keokuk is near the border line, our Regiment has been ordered there to rendezvous and organize, and by the last of this week we hope to be fully equipped and ready to act on the aggressive or defensive. I do not think Keokuk will be our permanent station, but when we leave that place I will advise you. Cairo or St. Louis will probably be our destination. Keokuk is some fifty miles South of here and we expect to arrive there at about midnight. The remainder of the Regiment (seven companies) will be there by Wednesday night, when a United States officer will take charge of us. I am now impatient to be mustered into active service, for I am tired of changing about. As the 20 days of grace given the secessionists by Pres. Lincoln, expires to-day, I think we may look for some decisive measures on the part of Gen. Scott this week.

H. P.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8th, 1861.

DEAR PARENTS: We arrived at the Washington Navy Yard last night, but did not come on shore till this morning. On landing at 6 o'clock, we marched to the Capitol building where we are quartered for the present in one of the small rooms back of the Hall of Representatives. We sailed from New York in the mail-steamer Roanoke on Saturday afternoon at 6 o'clock and that night on going out, there was a very heavy swell caused by the easterly winds, and the steamer which was a small one rolled and pitched violently, which made nearly every member in the company sea-sick, including myself. I was awful sick for a time, and felt as if I should like to be thrown overboard, but was the better for it after I got well. I think I have got my sea-legs on by this time. We set sail from New York for Fort Monroe where we arrived on Sunday evening at 9 o'clock, having sailed 300 miles in 27 hours.—We anchored there that night and in the morning our Captain went into the fort. The fort is a splendid structure and from the outside it looks as if it would take all of the troops in the South to take it. There are 2 walls to the fort and between the walls there is a stream of water running all around the fort, 30 feet wide and 8 feet deep. Our captain says it is a perfect paradise inside. There are flower-gardens and fruit trees in full bloom within it, and he brought out some flowers. It is 1 3-4 of a mile round the wall on the inside. There are 1500 troops there at present. They are of the 3d and 4th regiments. I saw Albert Upton and twelve Salem boys there on board the steamer Cambridge and are on the Coast-guard, having enlisted for thirty days to cruise along the coast. Their duty now is to stand guard over the sailors to keep them from smoking over the powder-magazines. They all look rugged as can be, but they had not been out but four days when we saw them. The river there is guarded and they do not allow any schooners to pass up or down I believe. The frigate Cumberland lay along-side of us on Monday morning, and a brig coming along, the frigate hailed her but she did not answer or show colors, so they fired a musket. Still she did not answer, and they fired a cannon loaded with grape-shot which whistled by them and when they saw the grape they hove to as quick as possible. She hailed from Bath, Me. Monday morning we sailed from Fort Monroe for Washington. We sailed all day till nearly dark, when there came up a thunder shower; so we came to anchor for the night again. I never saw it rain so in my life as it did for about two hours. The people in Massachusetts do not know what thunder and lightning are unless they have seen it as it is here. Yesterday we started again and sailed up the Potomac all day long. It was the pleasantest sail that we have had since we started. The scenery on both sides of the river was splendid—Maryland on the right bank going up and Virginia on the left. It is a fine country. There did not seem to be many plantations on either side of the river, but mostly fishermen's huts. When we passed Mt. Vernon, we all took off our hats and the bell on the steamer tolled and the flag was at half-mast.—It is a handsome place. The next object of interest is Fort Washington, on the right bank of the Potomac above Mt. Vernon. It is on a hill and is a rather savage looking place to pass. It is not so strong a fort as Monroe, but it is in a handsome place. I should like to give you some description of Washington and some of the public buildings, but there is not paper enough in Washington to describe them. All of them that we have been in are splendid buildings both inside and out.

To-day we got bread and coffee for breakfast without butter. The living, I suppose, is pretty hard, but I don't care. I have held my own so far and I guess I can if any of them can. Milk is 50 cents per gallon here, for some of us tried to get a little last night to put into our coffee, but we thought we would go without. There are 35,000 barrels of flour under the floor of the building that we are quartered in.

M. SHACKLEY.

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ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 9th, '61.

DEAR FRIENDS: We had a large fire here this morning—a large block of stores on Pennsylvania Avenue, adjoining Willard's Hotel, were burnt. Ellsworth's Regiment of N. Y. Firemen and our own were promptly on hand; and through the united exertions of both, all the contents and the adjoining buildings were saved. It would have made you laugh to have witnessed the spectacle—wherever there was a foothold you could see a red or a blue shirt; we wear the blue ones, the N. Y. boys the red. I saw Maj. Anderson this morning at the fire. Northern papers are in great demand here. The Boston Journal brings six cents. I wish you would send me a Wizard—I should like to see one very much. Our army received a reinforcement the other day of 500 head of cattle for our use. There is one thing in this city you notice quickly—that is, everything is unfinished. The Capitol is without its dome at the present time; the windows of the Post Office are boarded up; the Treasury is surrounded by heaps of stone, and the Washington monument has reached but about 1-4 of the height intended. The Smithsonian Institute alone stands complete. But there is something which every one notices as soon as he gets into a slave State that looks odd, and that is, a lack of that thrift and comfort which thrive only on free soil. I would not like to live here long.

H. W. VERY.

Iowa Regiment.

KEOKUK, Iowa, May 11, '61.

I wrote you last Sunday night while on the downward trip from Davenport, giving an account of our departure and life on the boat.— We arrived here safely Monday morning, and as usual the "Greys" found friends, conspicuous among whom was Ex-Gov. Lowe, now Judge of the Supreme Court, who insisted upon our company making the U. S. Court Block our quarters. We were only too willing, and are now comfortably and pleasantly located in a three-storied brick building with balconied front, and called "Verandah Block." The first floor we use as an armory and dining-room; the second is fitted up with bunks for sleeping apartments, and the third (the U. S. Court room) we use as a reading, writing, lolling and smoking room, and at this time I am in the Judge's chair and using his desk for writing purposes. Our living is very much better than at Davenport and we now have milk with our coffee, eggs, soup, corn-bread, and many other *luxuries* not seen on our table at D. This town is not so large or so pleasantly situated as Davenport, yet I think no member has any cause to regret the change of our rendezvous. We are all well and in fighting trim and anxious to be sent off for actual service, but as the arms and camp equipage for the Regiment have not yet arrived we cannot go.

Keokuk is within three miles of the Missouri line, and by looking upon the map you will see that it is located upon a sort of peninsula that juts into Missouri, and the city is actually some sixteen miles *south* of the northern line of that State. The remainder of our uniforms and many mementos from the ladies and citizens of Dubuque, arrived here this morning, and most of the members have gone to church.

The Greys have the advantage of the other companies, inasmuch as we had a stand of 60 Minie rifles which we brought from Dubuque with us, and are consequently becoming proficient in the manual of arms. We had an election of Regimental Officers yesterday and elected our straight ticket. J. F. Bates of Dubuque, and old member of the company, was chosen Colonel; Merritt, Lieut. Col.; and Porter, Maj. When we arrived here on Monday, no other companies had reported, but by Wednesday night the whole Regiment, 1000 strong were on hand and quartered. Lieut. Chambers of the U. S. army, is here, and to-morrow morning we shall be mustered into the service of the United States, and take the necessary oath of allegiance to the Stars and Stripes. Our arms, &c., are daily expected and when received we shall probably be ordered South immediately, as the trouble between the Federal troops and secessionists in St. Louis that occurred day before yesterday, has wrought great excitement in Missouri. It is now rumored that our force will go to Hannibal, Mo., as several secession flags are flying there and the Unionists are threatened, but I cannot help thinking that Cairo needs us. Time will tell. Our company now numbers just 100, and if they will give us the chance, we will render a good account of ourselves.

H. P.

DENNISON P. MOORE.

Iowa Regiment.

KEOKUK, Iowa, May 11, '61.

DEAR SIR: In a former letter I informed you that the U. S. Court room was used by our members for writing letters, &c., and so it usually is, but the company are now having their after-dinner fun in there, and I have seceded to the Jury room (now occupied by empty boxes, rubbish, &c.), where I have seated myself on the floor and have appropriated a box marked "Ayer's Pills," which I use as a writing-desk. This is what I call writing a letter under difficulties. We still occupy the quarters allotted us on our arrival here, but have received orders to go into camp day after to-morrow (Monday). This was a welcome order to most of us, as we are anxious to try life on the "tented field." The camp-ground selected is on the bank of the Mississippi, and about a

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mile and a half north of this city. One hundred and sixty tents arrived day before yesterday, each company of the regiment being allowed sixteen; and yesterday 100 boxes containing 100,000 musket-cartridges (round) were received and are now in our armory guarded by a squad of Greys detailed for that purpose. Our Company being the only one supplied with arms (muskets I mean) according to the government property being placed in our care. We have a stand of 60 Minie rifles the only ones in the State, that were provided for us by the Governor about a year and a half ago, and these we brought with us. One thousand and muskets and accoutrements are expected from St. Louis to-day, being a part of the surrendered to Capt. Lyon, by Gen. Fremont at the secession camp Jackson. There are a great many traitors or secessionists here, but they are pretty well muzzled and cannot therefore act openly. Several rumors have been circulated that plans were laid to seize our Minies, and consequently we have had a double guard over them for the past few nights. Had any such attempt been made, the rebels would have met with a warmer reception than they expected. I place no credence at all upon any such rumors, yet it is well enough to be prepared for whatever may happen. We have but to cross the Missouri line to find any quantity of Jefferson Davis's followers, and in conversation with E. Gov. Lowe this noon, he informed me that this morning he met with a citizen of Fairmount Mo., a town only ten miles from here, who had come hither to borrow some muskets, as the Union men of that town were to raise the Stars and Stripes this afternoon, and the secessionists had sworn to shoot the first man who attempted it. He thought there would certainly be a conflict between the two parties, as the Unionists are determined to hoist their flag, and the secessionists apparently as strongly determined that they shall not. In case serious trouble does arise, the Governor's Greys have permission to go down and uphold the old flag. We are anxious for a brush with the rebels, and if we are not soon sent off the boys will take it upon themselves to make incursions into the neighboring towns of Missouri where the *three-striped Flag* is flying, and pull them down by way of variety. Every boat from the "sunny South" is crowded with passengers fleeing "from the wrath to come," and seeking homes in a civilized country. Well, we have room enough for all who are on the right side, and they will meet with a cordial welcome from the sons and daughters of the Hawk-eye State.

We are admirably fitted out as regards clothing &c., and if we are to serve three years instead of three months, I do not think it will be necessary for our company to procure any more clothing, and for my part I do not see what will be done with all that has been provided, thanks to the ladies and citizens of Dubuque. We have now been furnished by the U. S. Government with a complete suit, viz: uniform, blanket, shoes where wanted, and shirt, and there is enough left from the contributions of our Dubuque friends to go round again; so there is no fear of our suffering for want of clothing. Besides my musket, I have a Colt's revolver and an 8 inch. bowie knife.

H. P.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 12, '61.

DEAR FRIEND: While I am writing the companies are falling in to go to Church with the Regiment, but as I took them to Church last Sunday I thought I would stay at home to-day. Our Regiment still continue to enjoy good health with very few exceptions. When we first arrived, most all of the men took cold and had coughs, but have now mostly recovered — We expect every day to receive orders to go somewhere else. We should probably have gone into camp before this, but they gave our encampment to the New York Zouaves under Col. Ellsworth, as they were a bad set of boys.

I never was more disappointed than I was in the appearance of Washington. It is a very large city in extent, but the buildings are very much scattered. The grounds connected with the Government buildings look beautifully and there are very fine buildings, but with two or three exceptions the streets are very dirty. It seems that every one has a right to throw all the rubbish he pleases into the street, and there are some not very pleasantly fragrant places about here. There are plenty of pigs in the streets, and day before yesterday one of the regulars shot one of them, and one of our men being present took him and brought him to the cook-room, and last night we had a grand stew for supper. The same night at about 10 o'clock, four companies of the 8th Regiment were ordered under arms to go to the Relay House, as a despatch came that an attack had been made on the Picket Guard and seven men killed, but the order was countermanded. It turned out that no one was killed although the guard were fired upon. Last Thursday evening one of the Washington soldiers was shot by a policeman for merely trying to dodge him, and the matter created quite a disturbance. If the military had got hold of him they would have hung him on the spot. The day we arrived here they told me they had twenty-five secessionists on the Police in this city, but the reason of this I do not know. How things will turn out finally I do not know, but I think there will be some fighting and that the South will get handsomely threshed, for the troops here are spoiling for a fight and I think will do their duty.

J. H. ESTES.

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, May 19, 1861.

DEAR FRIEND :—We have received orders to pack up in half an hour, and it is a busy scene I assure you. We have as yet received no orders to march, but expect them every moment. It may be that the order was given to see how quick we could get ready—but I think not, as we have been expecting it for a week.

We have had rumors that we were going to Norfolk or to Harper's Ferry, but we do not know anything about where we shall go.

The South Danvers boys received a box of clothing from Mr. Jacobs, yesterday, for which they are duly thankful, the clothes being very much needed. The men are in first rate spirits at the prospect of leaving, and cracking jokes at each other as though they were on a pleasure excursion. As a general thing, our Company have been healthy since we have been here, none of them being sick more than one day—caused probably by the change of climate and hard work. My health has been first rate—there not being a day when I was unable to attend to my duties, which were not always the lightest. We have very warm weather in the day time, but rather cool at night.

Since we have been here, I have visited very few places of interest, as the public buildings, which are the most attractive, are generally closed before I am off duty. I spent a couple of hours at the Smithsonian Institute, one day, and found it to be one of the greatest places of interest I ever was in. I could not give you a description of what I saw, as it would take more time than I have to spare at the present writing.

Yours in haste,

J. H. ESTES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20, 1861.

DEAR BROTHER: Having just received your letter, I will endeavor to improve a few of the spare moments, (and I assure you they are few) by dropping you a few lines. Relative to war news, I suppose you learn more from the papers than I can tell you. In answer to your question in regard to our sleeping accommodations I will merely state that we sleep on the soft side of a plank, with our coats for blankets.

There are about 30,000 Federal troops in Washington at the present time, and without boasting, it will take more than ten times that number of rebels to whip us.

Tell Skipper George Osborne, that the Gape Lane boys will do their duty, and that our motto is, "Grape and Canister first;—Blank Cartridges afterwards."

We have a Colonel attached to the 5th Regiment, who is an accomplished officer, and wherever he or our subordinate officers lead, their men will follow. If arduous drill will make us effective soldiers, we shall not be found wanting. Please send me on receipt of this the South Danvers Wizard.

May 23.

I have just received through the kindness of Mr. E. S. Poor, a letter from home, and I must say that upon opening the same I was very agreeably surprised and elated to find enclosed a handsome sum of money from Mr. G. F. Barnes. I wish you to return him my sincere thanks for the same.

The South Danvers boys were overjoyed when they received the generous present of clothing, and all felt that they had kind friends among the ladies and gentlemen of South Danvers. I have just heard a report that Col. Eilsworth of the New York Fire Zouaves has been killed;—if that is so, I think his death will be terribly avenged.

J. G. ESTES.

BOSTON, May 22, 1861.

TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF SO DAVENPORT:—

GENTLEMEN,—The Union Hall Committee of Relief for the Families of the Troops of Massachusetts, now or about to be in arms for the General Government, having obtained the approval of the Secretary of the Board of Education for our Commonwealth, beg leave respectfully to suggest to your Board, and, with your co-operation, to the several Teachers of your Districts, the expediency of inviting the older boys, lads, and young men, at present or lately belonging to your Schools, to cultivate such grounds in their respective neighborhoods as the town or the people may loan them, with a view to the supply of vegetables to our absent brothers in the campaign, or to the families that they have left behind them.

Seeds, compost, tools of husbandry, &c., &c., will doubtless be forthcoming from the good people of your place. The movement itself might be made at once very agreeable and advantageous to all concerned; indeed, no words of ours are needed to show our young friends, to be mustered into this service, how pleasant their toil will be,—how delighted they will be with whatever it may secure for the soldiers,—and how precious in all their after lives will be their memory of this endeavor to serve their country by providing for the well-being of its heroic defenders. Patriotism, fairest fruit of a free and happy land, will surely thrive in the field we would assign them.

The whole is submitted to your consideration, and any help that we can render is at your service.

~~All~~ All contributions, now or hereafter at your disposal, of the products of the soil, may be directed to the Depot of the Quartermaster General of the Massachusetts Regiments in service, at No. 132 Congress Street, Boston.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES F. BARNARD,

For the Committee.

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KEOKUK, Iowa, May 24, '61.

DEAR SIR: Nothing is seen, heard or talked of in this city but military, *military* MILITARY; and at any hour of the day (and I might almost say night), the sound of the drum and life is ringing in our ears, and at every turn we meet with those who have rallied to support the flag under which our fathers fought and the constitution as our fathers made it. The second regiment is now mustered here, the ten companies having arrived during the past two days, and we now have two thousand troops ready and anxious to meet and cope with the enemies of our country. The third regiment will rendezvous here next week, thus making three thousand from our young State, and when the word is given, ten thousand more will be in the field ready for action. An extra session of the Legislature is now convened and Iowa will be placed on a thorough war footing.—The sum of 800,000 dollars has been appropriated, and already bills have been passed authorizing the Governor to raise five or six additional regiments and to purchase the most effective arms for the same. Young as we are, we are not a whit behind you in the great struggle now pending, and be assured that Iowa will do her part towards maintaining our government. Since my last letter, two thousand muskets have been received and distributed among our troops. They are of the old pattern and part of the lot captured at Camp Jackson, St. Louis, by the federal authorities. The boys are sadly disappointed in them, and curses not *deep*, but *loud*, went up when this fact became known, but they are assured that better ones are on the way for them, and they are in part reconciled. The "Greys" have the advantage of the other companies in respect to arms, as we have a stand of 'Minie rifles' which we brought from Dubuque with us. Our possession of these has caused some feelings of jealousy among certain companies of our regiment, but of that we care little, as we are able to hold our own at any time and under any circumstances. Our Col. wished us to give them up to some company formed here, that is not in the 1st Regiment, but our Captain, who is a trump, promptly refused to do any such thing, saying that if the Greys did not carry them to the war, no other company should; and in view of this we have been allowed to retain them.

The 1st Regiment expected to have been in camp before this, and several orders to that effect were issued from head quarters, but only to be countermanded. What is the cause of this delay, "deponent saith not," but it may be connected in some way with orders relative to our removal. Yesterday I understood that seven companies were to camp to-day, but I can tell better to-night. The Greys are the pet company of the State, and the crack corps of the regiment, and the reputation gained at home has followed them here. They worked hard to earn it, and are as willing to work to retain it.

The daily reports of large bodies of troops concentrating in Tennessee and Kentucky, strengthen my belief that we shall go to Cairo, although no orders have yet been received.

There was a report in circulation last night, that Col. Ellsworth had been assassinated in Alexandria, Va. It created great excitement and we are impatiently awaiting news by telegraph. I scarcely credit it, for the telegraph has done so much lying lately and circulated so many false reports, that everything must be confirmed before it can be believed.

Gen. Harney arrived in St. Louis just in time, and it is to be hoped that his prompt action will yet save the State of Missouri from the doom of secession, whither she was fast drifting. Speaking of Missouri reminds me, that since my last letter, I have met with a former townsman of yours, and one who has contributed many interesting communications from that State to the "Wizard." I refer to P. S. STANLEY, Esq., who for the past twenty-five years has resided in Alexandria, Mo., a town some four miles from here, where he is largely engaged in farming. I also met at the same time John Hart, who formerly occupied a situation in Dr. Sweetser's Store. They heard through the Wizard that I was here, and on Sunday last called upon me. Mr. Stanley gave me a very kind invitation to spend a few days with him on his "ranche," but a furlough is not at this time very readily granted, and I have not yet availed myself of his invitation. I expect to see John Hart here again tomorrow.

Yesterday was a gala day for Keokuk and the military, and a day that will long be remembered by us all. The ladies, wishing in some way to show to the military their esteem and regard for them and their devotion to the Union, decided to get up a monster picnic, in which all the companies should participate, and yesterday was the day appointed for the festival. As usual upon such an occasion, it threatened to rain, but at noon old Sol gained the supremacy and the afternoon was warm and pleasant. Fifteen companies marched to the ground where the ladies and citizens took charge of them until the repast was ready. Fifteen tables were spread, each one being designated by the letter of the company which was to occupy it. When it was announced that all was ready, the captains marched their companies to the tables spread for them. We were not long in finding "Co. I," when we were arranged in line on the *outside*, the tables being arranged in hollow squares, while the *inside* was taken possession of by some fifty ladies who were to have charge of us until the meal was finished. Our men not having eaten any dinner (as we left our quarters at 12 o'clock), and reaching the ground by a long march, you can be assured that our entertainers had their hands full, but they proved equal to the task they had assumed and the guests were well satisfied. The tables fairly groaned with *goodies* and bouquets, and where so much cake and so many pies were picked up I cannot tell. After the eating process was gone through with, the ladies presented each member of the Greys with a handsome bouquets, and placed an elegant one together with a wreath on the spear that surmounts our flag. This flag, by the way, has been adopted as the standard of the First Regiment. Three times three cheers and a Minne-HA-HA were given for the ladies of Keokuk, when we broke ranks and gathered around the girls, and the speakers' stand, where toasts, sentiments and short speeches were given, songs sung, &c. At 5 o'clock, three cheers for the ladies, three more for the 'Star Spangled Banner', and three more for everybody, were given, upon which we took up our line of march for home. The picnic was a great success and far excelled anything of the kind I ever attended. The ladies covered themselves with honor by this noble exhibition of their sympathy with the soldiers and their cause, and by the skill and good taste with which they managed the whole affair. It was estimated that 5000 persons were on the ground and participated in the festivities of the day.

H. POOLE.

field of clover. We laid down in the wet grass in our blankets and covered ourselves with our overcoats, taking our knapsacks for our pillows. When we awoke in the morning the camp was a comical sight. We had formed a hollow square and laid on our arms. It was just sunrise. No one was astir but the picket guard posted all around us and all the way to Washington. It very forcibly reminded us of the campaigns of Napoleon and as the sun rose clear, of his exclamation, "Behold the sun of Austerlitz."

Yesterday we had for breakfast, strong tea and dry bread, for dinner, dry beans and bread, for supper, tea and bread, and for breakfast to day, tea, bread and pork. What we shall have for dinner has not transpired, but our men are bound to do their duty notwithstanding.

Yours truly,

W. F. SUMNER.

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Yours truly,

W. F. SUMNER.

CAMP ANDREW, VA., }
May 27th—10 o'clock A. M. }

MR. WOLCOTT,—Dear Sir:—Your letter I received yesterday afternoon, and right glad was I to hear from you. Although I was very tired and sleepy, I grabbed at it as quick as a drowning man would at a floating plank. I will try to give you a slight sketch of our encampment. We are close to the main road leading from Washington to Alexandria, about six miles from the former and two miles from the latter place, on a level pasture of about 60 or 80 acres. East lies the valley of the Potomac, west about half a mile is a small pond, and beyond that the hills covered with verdure tower upwards towards the sky; east lies the town of Alexandria, and in that direction it is very level as far as the naked eye can discern. It is, in fact, a very beautiful spot—everything around looks so thrifty and green.

I wrote a letter to my friends, telling them about our starting from the Treasury, and going back again; but about ten o'clock the same night, the 25th, we strapped our knapsacks to our backs, and off we went. The Colonel led us into a mowing field about one half mile beyond here, where we turned in with nothing to shelter us from the storm. The grass was up to our knees, and the heavy dew had made it very wet; but I spread out my overcoat, and taking my knapsack for a pillow, covered myself with a blanket, and was soon in the land of dreams. I laid just as warm as I could wish to, and woke up quite refreshed. After breakfast we came back here.

About 6 o'clock P. M. came our tents. They were immediately distributed among the several companies, and were soon pitched and ready for occupancy. About the middle of the afternoon, a flag staff was erected in front of head quarters, and up went the stars and stripes. You will believe me when I say that I never heard such cheers as went forth when they were thrown to the breeze. The drums and fifes, (all the Band we can boast of,) struck up "Hail Columbia," after which all hands joined in singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

The camp is guarded by eighty men, that is, just around the enclosure. The picket guard, consisting of thirty men, are out about half a mile from the camp, two men together, in order to give warning of approaching danger.

The picket guard of the New York Zouaves, quartered in Alexandria, were fired upon the other night by the rebels. They fled, but were pursued and five of them captured by the Zouaves, and taken into camp. Four of them were hung yesterday morning, the Band playing Yankee Doodle, while cannons were fired and bells rung, &c. The fifth was released for exposing secrets.

We don't know where we shall go when we leave here. The Colonel says we shall not remain in this camp after the present week. It is rumored that more troops are to be ordered here, and that when a large force is collected in this vicinity we are to be sent in different directions, and take possession of places captured by the rebels.

The railroad runs along side the main road here for a number of miles. The track is of flat iron, about six inches wide, spiked down to the joists that run lengthwise, and a rough looking piece of work it is, too. But things are not finished here as they are in our Eastern States.

Our guard have taken one prisoner, supposed to be a spy. He will be tried, and if anything can be found against him he will have to suffer death.

Give my best respects to all.

Yours truly, SAMUEL H. BUXTON.

LETTER FROM ILLINOIS.

CHAMPAIGN, ILL., May 28, 1861.

FRIEND POOLE :—I will try to give you some of the items of news which may interest you, for a greater interest is felt in every State, county and town throughout the North and West than ever before. The weather this spring has been cold so far. It has been so backward that the planting season is not near at an end. But the warm sun of a few days back has had such an influence on the earth that vegetation is coming forward at a rapid rate. Winter and spring wheat look finely, and with so much rain, we do not look for, or fear, an early drought. Business is rather dull, owing mostly to the condition of things in the country. The increase of this place has been somewhat slower than usual, but it is steady, and with the best of men. The construction of several large warehouses keeps a great many persons employed. The Richards Brothers are building one on the east side of the Railroad track, 84x30, three stories high. Building is steadily going on, but not brisk. Lumber continues high, but the prices are declining, and will probably be down soon as low as in former years.

This town (as in all places of the West) has been greatly excited by the urgent demands of our country for aid. The attack on Fort Sumter has aroused every true lover of his country to his feet, and the call for defence has warmed all patriots into life, and nerved every arm for the contest. We cannot get into the field in so short a time as you of New England, but when there, we will try to do our duty faithfully and unflinchingly. I am mistaken if the Rebels do not learn a lesson from the North and West, which they will not soon forget.

The battle smoke had scarcely cleared away from Sumter, when the war cry was heard at the North. The patriotic citizens of the old "Bay State" caught the sound, and rung out,

as in days of old, the peals of alarm, which echoed among the distant hills of her sister States, and called forth the sons of freedom to battle for our country's rights. The Stars and Stripes had been trampled in the dust by the enemies of truth and justice, and its sacred folds polluted by the hand of the traitor. Our citizens have been imprisened and cruelly murdered, for no crime except being Northern men; and a war, a civil war, has been waged against a peaceful portion of the country by the advocates of human slavery at the South.

The beacon light of Liberty, which always shone so brightly in New England, warning all when danger lurked around, has lent its rays to illumine the torch of patriotism in the far West, and sent its clear but startling light over this wide spread prairie, beckoning to its hardy sons to rally around freedom's banner, and wrench from the hand of the traitor all that is worth preserving in our government and country. It is responded to by men of all parties. Although we cannot claim as much of the blending of the citizen with the soldier as our sister Massachusetts, yet our services shall be heartily given, and our defence of our country shall be as cheerfully and patriotically made as the circumstances which govern us will permit.

The call of the Government for aid is met with a readiness in which History does not furnish a parallel, or show to the world its equal, save in 1775. Massachusetts, always true to the Union, and ready at a moment's warning to act in its support, has gathered fresh laurels by her prompt action in this emergency, and is now receiving the thanks of the lovers of liberty everywhere. But the West is not idle. The pulsations of liberty which are beating so fully in the older States, is felt in its vibrations here. The heart that is stirred by the treachery and traitorism at the South, finds entire sympathy with the brethren of the West.

From every hillside and hamlet on this western prairie, have stout men, with stouter hearts, come forth, to battle with the enemies of our country wherever they are. As soon as the sound of alarm came booming across the distant prairie, the farmer, feeling that all he held dear in a government which has brought him so many blessings in the past, and which he was looking to guard him in the future, was menaced by a deadly foe, he snatched his rifle from the place where it had been for years, and amid the blessings and prayers of his aged parents, went forth on his mission of duty and mercy to mankind to mingle with his fellow lovers of liberty, against a desperate foe.

It has been said by one who stands high in the councils of the nation, that the great battle for freedom is yet to be fought in the valley of the Mississippi, and I believe the prediction (made so long since) is about to be verified; if so, we are ready—and, in the words of a truly great man, "let it come." We are ready to meet it, under whatever disguise it may come. The bone and muscle of Illinois has not yet taken the field. The *small fisted* farmer is now waiting for the future demands of government, and the call will be answered by a force which will not be easily turned aside, where freedom is the motive that urges them to action.

Our boys at Cairo are ready for the contest, if the Rebels would like to introduce themselves. We should like to have them do so, and our agent (Gen. Prentice) will "do the amiable," and show them some of the Lions or Bull Dogs of the State.

South Carolinians, the descendants of the Huguenots, (I had almost said Hottentots) are to be pardoned, in a slight measure, for their rebellious acts—as ignorance and whisky form a great part of their characteristics.

Yours truly,

J. G. PHELPS.

[Extract of a letter dated Camp Andrew,
May 30.]

This is a beautiful looking country, but I should not care about living here permanently. My health has been first rate since I have been here, and I hope it will so continue. We hear every day of the enemy's being within a few miles of us, but we cannot believe anything we hear. When they come we shall probably know it, and they will undoubtedly get a warm reception. David Jeffry is sick, and has been so for two days, but is getting better now. He has had a bad cold and sore throat, which seems to be the only complaint to amount to anything which has appeared in the company since we arrived, and that does not last more than two or three days. Leavitt has a touch of the Rheumatism, and they talk of sending him home. He don't like to go and leave the company here, but I think his health requires it. The farmers here are hoeing their corn, and grain looks well.

While I am writing, something has evidently "turned up," as the Colonel has returned and all the officers are at his quarters. They are hurrying up thirty men from each company; but what they are going to do we cannot now tell. I assure you we have to keep our eyes and ears open in this country these times. I expect to be called on at any moment, to do something or other, so I might as well draw to a close. Hart is sitting beside me, fretting because he has lost his pencil.

J. H. ESTES.

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

LONG HARBOR,
ALEXANDRIA, VA., June 2. }

DEAR FRIEND:—Yours of the 21st was received, and I was glad to hear from you. A number of the boys expressed a wish that you had come out with us. You tell about my long legs and spindle shanks. I am as fat as a porpoise, having gained fifteen pounds since I have been out in the Southern country. We have been here a week in this camp, and I feel as gay as a lark on a sunny morning. We expect to be ordered farther South before many days, but you can direct your letters to Washington, the same as you have done. We lay on our arms every night, and they are loaded.

A report came about half an hour ago that seven thousand rebel troops were marching on to Alexandria, and that seven hundred were within five miles of us. Let them come—we are ready for them. The same report says that the Western troops are driving them. We are digging trenches on Arlington Heights. I suppose you have heard of them. It is a pleasant place, and overlooks Washington and Alexandria. The talk is that they are to plant heavy guns on the Heights. We can give the enemy fits from these hills, if we can only get sight of them. They say that our station will be at the junction of the two roads leading from Harper's Ferry.

The Fifth Regiment of Massachusetts are the boys who will do their duty when called upon. We have been drilling for a fortnight, in the "double quick" charging up hill and down, and leaping ditches. You had better believe it is hard work, though digging trenches is harder. I shall not complain, however, as "I have gone for a soger." But I must stop now, as the order is to be on a line.

* * * * *

I have got a chance to finish your letter now. When we were called on a line, I sprang up, and was ready in ten minutes. It seems that one of the regulars rode into camp with the report that the rebels were within a mile of us, but the report was false.

The box of clothing we received told that the folks at home had not forgotten the South Danvers boys yet, and I guess they never will. I send you a small piece of wood from the banisters of the stairs where Col. Ellsworth was shot. I should send you a larger piece if I had an opportunity; but I don't know as it will interest you any, as you have no cabinet, and have no desire to commence one that I know of.

Write as often as you can to your old friend,

HARDY MURPHY.

CAMP MASSACHUSETTS, }
Alexandria, Va., June 8, 1861. }

DEAR FRIEND :—I write you a line to inform you that I am as well, and in as good spirits as ever. Last Sunday we had Divine service at 10 o'clock, after which we received orders to pack up and strike our tents, and get ready to march at 7 o'clock P. M. We marched to Alexandria. After proceeding about two and a half miles, we arrived at the spot selected, and pitched our encampment, which I think is not so good as the former camp. We are near the Pennsylvania, Michigan and New York Zou-ave Regiments, and one mile from the centre of Alexandria. The guard in the city is detailed by companies from the different Regiments composing this Brigade. Our company was detailed last Wednesday, but the boys did not get a chance to shoot anybody. There have been three or four men shot upon the posts we occupied in the city, but none from this regiment. The men are in excellent health, and I am inclined to think that it agrees better with them here than in the Treasury building. The regiments are in good discipline, and ready for any emergency.

* It is amusing to see the pleasant faces of the men when they receive a letter, paper or box from their happy homes. The uniforms provided by our kind friends of Salem and South Danvers have not been received up to this time. The men have letters saying there is a bundle for them, and they are very anxious to sight them. If we do not receive them soon, we shall have fears of their being sent to some other regiment, as has been the case in more than one instance. *

We have had two or three days of rainy weather here, so that we have got pretty lazy; but as the sun has made its appearance this morning, we shall probably get what little exercise we need before night.

Our motto is, "Give us liberty or give us death."

A YANKEE VOLUNTEER.

"IN CAMP," NEAR KLOKUK, Iowa, }
June 6, 1861. }

DEAR COUSIN:—Our camp is situated about a mile north of the city, and distant half a mile from the river on a gentle roll of the prairie. Fourteen tents, exclusive of those occupied by the officers, are allotted to each company, and to accommodate us, we have to stow seven men in each, which makes pretty close quarters I can assure you.

I like camp life very much, and enjoy everything but our "grub," (for I can call it nothing else) that is too bad. Why, we don't begin to live as well as on board a ship, and that is poor enough for anybody.

On Sundays, the drills, with the exception of the dress parade, are omitted, and in the afternoon divine service is held on the parade ground, the Chaplain of the Regiment officiating—a bass and tenor drum taking the place of a pulpit, called in military parlance, "preaching from the drum head." And it is a beautiful sight to see one thousand soldiers formed in a square, with the Chaplain in the centre, invoking the blessings of Him "who doeth all things well."

Yours truly,

H. P.

CAMP MASSACHUSETTS, June 8.

DEAR MOTHER :—The weather has been bad here for two or three days. I was on guard the other night about three miles from camp. We have to look out pretty sharp on guard, for they fire upon us almost every night, but have not killed any one yet, as they are poor shooters. The night I was on guard a rebel was shot. The Colonel says he is more afraid of our men than he is of the rebels, as the order is to shoot all they see about the camp.

It is now after ten o'clock at night, and they are still digging in the trenches; but I think they will get done by next week, as they have three or four hundred Irishmen there at work.

The story now is, that we are to march in two days, but the only way that I can tell when we are going is to wait till I see myself doing so, for the officers keep everything to themselves.

Yours ever,

J. A. P. SUMNER.

"IN CAMP," MACON CITY, Mo.,
Friday night, June 14, 1861. }

DEAR PARENTS:—Our regiment left Keokuk for Hannibal yesterday afternoon, on the steamer Jeannie Deans, at which place we arrived at midnight, slept on the ground, and this morning six companies, including ours, received orders to proceed out on the line of this road, (the Hannibal and St. Joseph,) and look after the secessionists.

We have had quite an exciting time, having seized a secession flag and cut down two poles, besides routing any quantity of the rebels.—Scouts and spies have dodged us all the way. At every station we passed, of any size, squads of us would leave the train and visit the different stores in search of contraband goods. In one I found a lot of secession envelopes, which I took charge of, and have with me. I will send these few lines in one of the captured.

This place is about eighty miles from Hannibal, and has been a hot bed of secessionism. We arrived here at six o'clock, and since that time have brought six prisoners (secessionists) into camp, one of whom is the Mayor of the town. We have them under guard. Our Colonel is bound to put down everything in the shape of secession that we meet. We have just received intimation of a lot of rifles and ammunition, and a camp of rebels, some six miles from here. Companies I and E are going out there to-night. We expect a hot time, but all are anxious to start. There is an appearance of a severe thunder storm. We leave at 11 o'clock. The balance of our regiment come on here to-morrow. We are in excellent spirits at the thought of a brush. The 2d Iowa Regiment has just passed through here on their way to St. Joseph. Government took possession of this road yesterday.

Gov. Jackson of this State has issued a proclamation calling out 50,000 troops to protect it from invasion. Gen. Lyon thinks he will have as much fighting in this State as any in the Union. We talk of hanging a spy we took this evening; can't yet tell; great excitement among our boys. To-morrow we scout over this country, and make a descent upon everything suspicious.

Tattoo is being beat, and I must close. I have written this on a cartridge box.

Saturday, June 15.

An order has just been received by our Colonel, from Gen. Lyon, St. Louis, for us to break up camp and proceed to Remick, a town on or near the line of the North Missouri railroad, and a great haunt of secessionists. The balance of our regiment we expect here every moment, when we shall go ahead. I am rather sorry to leave this place just now, as we have had any quantity of fun and excitement since our arrival. Not a secession flag has been raised, but in their place the stars and stripes are seen floating, and now no less than four are being made, to be put up this afternoon. Until we came, the Unionists were not strong enough to admit of their showing their colors. There will probably be one company of the Second Regiment remain here to protect those devoted to the right cause. Otherwise I fear they would suffer for the information we have received from them.

The report received last night in regard to the "secession camp," proved to be unfounded; therefore we were deprived of our anticipated pleasure. Some three or four rebels have been captured this morning, but will be released on their taking the oath of allegiance. A secession pole, one hundred feet high, was cut down this morning, and transferred to our camp by "the boys," where it has been raised, and the stars and stripes now float proudly from it. It was raised amid great enthusiasm by the boys, the band playing Yankee Doodle, then Dixie and Old Virginia. The Unionists, both male and female, feel bad to have us leave, and it is no wonder—for since our arrival they have been allowed to express their true sentiments.

Six of the Greys (including myself) obtained permission this morning to pass the guard, when we made a descent upon stores, houses, &c. Powder, balls and caps were the only articles we took from the merchants, and of these we have enough to last us a long time; but the best "haul" was that of the drum and fife of the "Dixie Guards," a company of secessionists who have been the terror of the county. I took the drum, and a comrade the fife, and we marched through the town playing Yankee Doodle. It created great fun and excitement, as the citizens all recognized the drum as the one they had seen and heard paraded through their streets, drumming up recruits for the so-called Confederate army, and being used in all the demonstrations of the secessionists. The Captain, with twenty men and horses, went South on hearing of the approach of our troops. We shall get permission from our Colonel to keep the drum in Co. I, and use it on all parades of the corps, as it is a first class instrument.

At one store we visited, on asking if they had any powder and ball for sale, (being previously informed that they had,) they said "No," and stuck to it for a long time, until we got impatient and took the matter into our own hands, and searched the store. The result was, that in a barrel, under a lot of log chains, we found a keg of rifle powder, ten pounds of bullets and 12,000 musket caps, which we were not long in appropriating to the use of the 1st Regiment I. S. V. When we marched into camp with our plunder, we were greeted with rousing cheers from all the companies, and our quarters were crowded with men anxious to hear the account.

The Union ladies are very patriotic, and are deserving of much credit for their kindness to us. They have baked our bread, sent us provisions, &c., and at this time twenty are very busily engaged, at the Harris House, in making a large flag for our captured pole—they thinking the one now displayed not large enough. It will be done in about an hour.

It is strange how the sentiment of certain persons has changed since the arrival of our regiment in their midst; and on houses where, three or four days ago, the secession flag was displayed, the stars and stripes are now waving. And they talk loudly for the Union; but we have spotted them, and watch them closely.

The tone of Gov. Jackson's proclamation is of such a tenor that I fear serious results must follow. Great excitement exists throughout the whole State, if I can judge anything from

the portions through which we have passed.
But time warns me to close.

Yours truly,

HORACE POOLE.

P. S.—The Second Regiment, which went to St. Joseph last night, shot and killed a secessionist twenty miles this side of that place.

A telegraphic dispatch has just been received informing us that Gov. Jackson has changed the seat of government from Jefferson City to "Arrow Rock," and that he is concentrating his forces (50,000) there; that cannon and other munitions of war had been sent to that point, &c. From Remick we march immediately to Arrow Rock, a distance of 40 miles. Big fighting is on hand; wish I could know the result. The balance of our regiment has just arrived.

My next will probably contain some interesting and exciting news.

H. P.

CAMP MASSACHUSETTS, }
Alexandria, Va., June 15, 1861. }

DEAR FRIENDS :—Old Abe made a visit to our camp last Wednesday, and presented a flag to our regiment. I was not there at the presentation, as I had to go on guard at Alexandria, and did not come back until next day. They have finished the trenches and are now mounting the 32-pounders, and will be ready for a fight in a day or two. They say it will take two or three weeks to put the railroad track in order. A guard is kept around the depot day and night. Not a man is allowed out after nine at night, and they can only go a short distance from camp in the day time without a pass. Hardy Miltett and several members of our company have been doing Police duty at Alexandria, and they like it first rate. They are six hours on duty and six hours off.

Yours ever,

J. A. P. SUMNER.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., June 15, 1861.

DEAR FRIENDS :—We have just come in from the picket guard. We were out all day yesterday and last night, and are hungry, faint and tired. The weather is extremely hot, and we sweat considerable, I assure you. Lieut. Stark has just come in from another picket guard. Lieut. Wiley has gone out with another picket guard, and Lieut. Stone is going to-morrow. Our regiment is said to be the steadiest in the State of Virginia, and the citizens like them much. All the boys are well, but they are growing thin.

This city is a great place for flowers. The streets smell beautifully morning and evening. Government has repaired another railroad here, and everything goes along well. Two regiments leave here to-night. We shall stay and guard the city.

Yours truly,

W. F. SUMNER.

MACON CITY, Mo., June 17, '61.

MR. EDITOR:—When I wrote on Saturday last, we had orders to leave for "Arrow Rock," and were to take the cars for Renick at 4 P. M., but the train not coming in from the South it was impossible to do so. That something had happened was very evident, and all sorts of suppositions and predictions were indulged in; but yesterday morning we got the true state of affairs from the engineer of the train bound to this point on the North Missouri railroad, who had come twenty miles in a hand-car, and informed us that a bridge was burnt, and the track torn up, by secessionists, at a town twenty miles from here, and the locomotive and cars taken possession of by the rebels. We should have immediately marched to the spot, but four of our companies had been sent to different points along this road to protect it, and it was not deemed advisable to proceed without them. They have been telegraphed to come on without delay, and the Irish brigade of Chicago (which arrived at Hannibal on Saturday) 3,000 strong, will be here this noon, when the whole force will take a train and proceed to the point where the track is torn up, and, if possible, repair it and the bridge, then proceed to Renick, and, by forced marches, to Arrow Rock, where Gov. Jackson is mustering his forces, said to number 7000. Gen. Lyon and Col. Blair, with a force of 2000, are now on their way from St. Louis to the same place, and with whom we shall act in concert. That we shall have plenty of excitement and work, both on the way and at our place of destination, there is no doubt. But our minds are made up for anything that may happen; and in the future we see nothing, and know of nothing, but victory and success.

On our arrival here, we took possession of a secession printing office and paper, (the editor having left when he heard of our expected arrival,) and yesterday the printers of our regiment published a paper, a copy of which I send you with this. Comment upon the same is unnecessary, as the paper speaks for itself. I hope you will preserve it, and have it kept in the office of the "Wizard," where those desirous can see it. It is quite a curiosity, and one that you do not often see. We have all read of offices being seized, and the tone of the paper changed, but seldom have a chance to peruse them. This was a strong secession sheet, and only the week before our advent in this town, was loudly advocating the rebel cause.

The Unionists here are highly pleased with the change in the tone of its editorials, and have expressed the wish to have the "form" left standing, that they may run off some four or five thousand copies to circulate through the county. I would like to be where I could see the secession editor (Mr. Johnson) when he reads the last number of the Register issued from his office. I think he will be far more surprised than was the editor of the San Diego Herald, when "John Phoenix" was in the editorial chair.

Suspicious personages are continually seen lurking about this vicinity, and several are daily brought into camp. One important arrest was made on Saturday—that of Col. Brevier, an Inspector General in Gov. Jackson's army. His commission was found upon his person. He will be sent to Gen. Lyon, who will no doubt give him his just deserts.

On Saturday night, the pickets were extended a mile from camp, and our company was detailed for that duty; but nothing worthy of note occurred. Last night, Co. E was detailed for the same purpose, and at about midnight one of their pickets was fired upon by a spy, but no one injured.

Most of our boys are now busy making cartridges for our rifles, the government cartridges not yet having arrived.

Yours truly,

HORACE POOLE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., June 19, '61.

DEAR FRIENDS :—I gladly received yours of the 16th. The 17th of June passed off very quietly here, there not being so much as a gun fired. But I suppose they want to save their powder. Our company were on picket-guard all day and night. The garrison pickets are outside the walls—one half of the company guarding the ordinance department and the shore toward's Sewall's Point; the other, the beach and shore towards Hampton, to prevent spies from coming and boats landing. It was on this post that I was put, with thirty-one men; the countersign was "Bunker Hill," I suppose in honor of the day. But it is always the name of some battle, and the parole that of a General who was in it.

The battle of Big Bethel was a bad affair. It is generally conceded that it was a blunder all through. The Bethels are both small villages; one has got a large meeting-house, the other a small one, so they call one Big Bethel and the other Little Bethel. Characteristic of the Old Dominion, and in fact of the whole of the slave States, they are about one hundred years behind the times in everything. If at the battle of Big Bethel the order had been forward, instead of retreat, the victory would have been ours. There were 15 killed and 45 or 50 wounded. The wounded were brought in here, and I have for the first time seen the stern realities of war. There was one poor fellow shot through the chest, and both arms gone, who has since died; another, shot in the thigh, died to-day. But enough of this, you will say.

Our furniture is very simple, consisting of a table, two trunks, a bench (stuffed with straw), and a few dishes to eat out of. Our table was made by ourselves, out of a dry goods box, with four pieces of wood nailed on for legs, while the inside answers for a cupboard. Our bedding consists of straw, with mother earth for a bed. Having given you an idea how we look, I will now close.

Friday, June 21, 1861.

I have just come in from the picket guard, where I have been for the last twenty-four hours. The garrison was reinforced a day or two ago, in the shape of a baby, (a girl.) Both mother and child are doing well. The mother was the wife of one of the regulars who was

shot a short time ago at Hampton, for refusing to help raise a secession flag staff. She has been cooking for our Colonel for some time. Perhaps we shall adopt the little one as a daughter of the regiment.

I had the honor of heading the first expedition that our company has been on yet. Gen. Butler gave me orders to proceed over to the Hampton shore, by the way of the beach, where my guard were posted to capture a suspicious craft which had landed there. He said he could see, through his glass, the men skulking round in the woods with their guns and told me to take them, and the boat too, and bring them to the fort. I started with sixteen men over the beach, at a "double quick," the thermometer at 90 in the shade, and you may believe we sweat some.

Just after entering the woods, we came across two of the men, who wanted to know what we wanted? I informed them of my orders, and left a guard over the boat. I started through the woods after the others, and found them at a house about half a mile in the woods, drinking liquor. Having previously received orders to destroy all such "luxuries," and take all fire-arms, we turned the demijohns bottom up and took two fowling pieces, one of which was loaded and primed. We then took our two prisoners and marched them into the fort. They belonged to New York. Gen. Butler kept them a short time, and then let them go. So endeth our first scouting party.

Yours truly,

J. E. Smith

BOONEVILLE, Mo., June 21, 1861.

DEAR FRIENDS :—Our regiment arrived at this place this morning, after a forced and fatiguing march of forty miles from Renick (a town on the North Missouri Railroad). Here we have joined Gen. Lyon's force of 3000, and to-morrow or next day are going up the river to Lexington, where 6000 of Gov. Jackson's rebels are in camp. A big fight is expected, but we are prepared. Six large boats are now here, loaded with troops. We are quartered with eight other companies on the government steamer "City of Louisiana." She mounts two guns.

We were too late to take part in the battle here on Monday last. We should have been in season, but the regiment that was to relieve us on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, did not arrive until Tuesday. I have visited the hospital here to-day, and saw twenty-five of our brave fellows who were wounded. One will die. Two have had a leg amputated, one an arm, &c.

Gen. Lyon seized a large quantity of camp equipage, &c., here. His force was 2000—that of the rebels 4000. I was informed about two minutes ago that the government steamer would leave for St. Louis in five minutes, and as that is the only way we have to send letters (there being no mail communications, I thought I would write just to let you know where I am, so that if you hear of any fighting in this State you can trace us out. We expect very hot work during the next ten days. Two hundred prisoners were taken here.

But the bell is ringing, and I must carry this aboard. If we do not go to-morrow, I will write a long letter, giving you an account of our trip hither, and have it sent the next time the government steamer leaves. We are now further in the enemy's country than any regiment yet organized. At the battle here, from 80 to 100 rebels were killed—three only of the St. Louis (U. S.) troops. Good bye. God bless you all.

Yours truly,

HORACE POOLE.

CONFIDENTIAL
On board Gov't Steamer "City of Louisiana,"
BOONEVILLE, Mo., June 23, 1861.

DEAR FRIENDS:—When I last wrote it was from Macon City, on the eve of our departure for this section of the country, and in this letter I will give you a description of our trip through the enemy's country. I cannot, as I anticipated in my last, give you an account of any battle, in which we were engaged, with the traitors—not, however, that we were not both willing and desirous to engage them, but because they run and will not stand fight. But of the battle that was fought here on Monday last, and in which we *expected* to participate, I may be able to give you some information, gathered from those engaged in it.

The three companies of our regiment who had been sent along the line of the H. and St. Jo. Railroad, to protect the bridges, arrived in a special train on Tuesday morning. The company stationed at the long bridge near Palmyra had their pickets driven in twice Sunday night by the rebels, and the third time it was attempted, but Co. B was prepared, and two or three of the Secessionists were shot. On their return home Monday night the train was fired into three times, and on their arrival at Macon, I counted sixty ball holes in two cars, and four in the locomotive, yet, strange to say, not a person was injured. Upon their arrival we struck our tents and embarked upon a special train on the Northern Mo. Railroad for Renick, a town some forty miles distant. Nothing worthy of incident occurred on the route, and at 2 o'clock arrived at Renick just in time to see some two hundred rebels (who had returned from the fight at Booneville) fleeing across the prairie as fast as their horses could carry them; and we afterwards learned that they had gathered here to seize the train bound south, but upon seeing so many troops aboard they concluded it best to leave, and it was well for them that they did, for nothing would have suited us better than to have made an example of them. Here we found a hotel named the "Yancey House," and as the name "*Union Hotel*," was plainly visible through a coat of white paint, we concluded that something was wrong and accordingly took possession of the same, and upon searching the house found a large Palmetto flag, 25 feet long, with tree and rattle-snake complete, which was brought out amid the groans and hisses of the regiment, and trampled in the dust; the bar and liquor were then taken care of by the troops, your humble servant securing to himself a bottle of that excellent "stomach bitters," known as "*Hostetters*," which he found very refreshing after the long ride on the rail. Our next act was to get a lot of black paint, and set some five or six of our boys to work to restore the original name of the house, and before we left the name UNION HOTEL, in 30 inch letters, was plainly to be seen at the distance of half a mile. The swinging sign was then taken down, when it was found that it was made of two sheets of zinc, whose sides had been reversed, and while on the outside the name "*Yancey*" was to be seen, on the other side "*Union Hotel*," in fine gilt letters was still preserved. A few moments sufficed to make the change, when it was again placed in position, and the transformation was complete, and the Union Hotel was itself again, as far as regards outside appearances. Our captain then procured a large American flag, which was hoisted upon a tall staff (from which the rebel flag had floated), amid the cheers of the crowd, and the band playing the Star-Spangled Banner and Yankee Doodle, and a spread-eagle speech from one of our members. At home this would be nothing, but in an enemy's country it is rare sport I can assure you. Our colonel sent a messenger from here to Gen. Lyon, and the regiment encamped in the open air, after having posted a strong picket about the town. We seized a sufficient number of teams to transport our baggage, and on Wednesday morning the regiment was formed, and we took up our line of march over the roughest and most crooked roads I ever travelled, for Booneville, distant forty miles.

The day was extremely hot, the thermometer ranging from 90 to 100 deg. and the roads very dusty. At eleven o'clock we halted for rest, and resumed the march again at four, and encamped at night at a village called "Bunker Hill," some fifteen miles from Renick. Here we rolled up in our blankets and dropped on the ground, and slept soundly until three o'clock, when we were turned out, and at four were again on our way towards the Missouri River; arrived at Fayette, a very pretty town of some 3000 inhabitants at 10 o'clock, where we halted until four, when the command to march was given. At nine o'clock we were within three miles of the river, when we halted for the night, and were weary enough to drop asleep in our tracks. This day we marched 29 miles, and considering the heat, dust, and rough condition of the roads, I think we done well for recruits. As the end of this day's march my feet were well blistered, and had it not been for the noble cause in which we were engaged, I fear many would have remained behind.

It was a fine farming country through which we passed, and the crops of corn and wheat were looking finely; and in many instances, especially during the last few miles of our march, the darkies were busy in harvesting the last mentioned staple. The fruit crop also promises well, if I can judge from that seen on the route. The last three miles we marched

early on Friday morning, arriving at the river opposite Boonville at 8 o'clock, where we found two boats, the White Cloud and the Louisiana, awaiting to take us across the river. After getting our baggage, tents, &c. on board and stowing away ourselves, we cast off and steamed across the most muddy, dirty river I ever saw. We hauled up by the State Fair Grounds, a mile south of the city, where we found Gen. Lyon and Col. Frank P. Blair, with a force of about 2500 St. Louis troops quartered in the Fair Grounds and on three boats seized by Lyon for government purposes. As we neared them they greeted us with cheers which were returned with a good will by our regiment which has now probably advanced as far into the enemy's country as any yet enlisted. Our company together with five or six others are for the present quartered on the steamer, City of Louisiana.

Col. Blair with 600 of his troops left to go down the river yesterday afternoon. I suppose he has gone to St. Louis on his way to Washington, to take his seat in Congress on the 4th prox. We have this day received orders to draw seven days' rations, but for what I cannot tell, but something is in the wind, and those in authority do not mean to have it leak out.

On Saturday the 15th inst., Col. Bates received a dispatch from Gen. Lyon, (St. Louis,) for him to proceed to Booneville with his force to aid in breaking up the Secession camp at this place, on the 17th inst., but no regiment relieving us on the Hannibal and St. Jo. R. R., and it not being advisable to leave it unprotected, we were obliged to remain until the 18th, when the 2d Iowa Regiment arrived and we immediately left for this place, but we were too late for the fight, for Gen. Lyon had arrived before and had bagged his game; but of this we were not aware until we arrived at Renick. Some of the particulars I have learned from officers here who were engaged in the battle, and I will give them to you as I heard them. Gen. Lyon with a force of 1500 troops left St. Louis to surprise Gov. Jackson and his men whom he supposed to be at Jefferson City, but having learned that he had seized two boats (the White Cloud and Satan, now here in possession of Gen. Lyon) and removed his force to this place where he had received reinforcements, he sent the above dispatch to our Col., but upon learning how we were situated he decided to attack them with his command. He accordingly proceeded to this point where he placed a battery some three miles from the Secession camp, and stationed 1000 of his men here. 500 he landed below here and marched them to engage the enemy, and while they drew the attention of the rebels, he commenced firing shot and shell from a 64 pounder mounted on board the steamer Aug. McDowell (now lying alongside of us.) The first shell thrown struck in the center of the camp, when Gov. Jackson got upon his horse and fled with his whole force, 3500 strong, in great disorder.— Gen. Lyon started in pursuit and captured 200 and killed between 80 and 100 of the rebels, taking possession of the camp equipage, clothing, guns and pistols and two six pounders now on board this boat. Of the Federal troops two were killed, one missing and twenty wounded. The latter I visited at the hospital on Friday and then and there realized the horrors of war. The wounded were all Germans; two had each a leg amputated near the thigh, one had lost an arm; another was shot through the arm and breast, and could not long survive; another was shot in the neck, the ball passing out of his mouth, and strange to say, he was in excellent spirits and himself gave me an account of his wounds: the others had flesh wounds and will soon recover. From here Gov. Jackson and some 2000 of his troops fled to Lexington, but hearing that we were after him, the Governor has left that place and gone we know not where—so that we are again cheated of a fight. Gen. Lyon sent out one regiment the day before we arrived, with a battery of flying artillery to capture Jackson, and they have not yet returned but are expected daily. Secession has I think received its death-blow in this State by the prompt movements of Gen. Lyon, and I hardly think Gov. Jackson can again rally his men in sufficient force to make a decided stand against us. We may see some skirmishing but not many hard fought battles. It is but justice to say that the troops of Gov. Jackson were very poorly armed and equipped, many of them having nothing but knives.— Had they been allowed to remain unmolested until this time, the battle would have been more disastrous, as they had just received a lot of arms from Arkansas, but they were not put together. These were seized by Gen. Lyon.— Some of our boys have just come from the battle ground and they brought away several articles from there, among which are two Minie muskets found under a log, probably hidden there by rebels in their flight. Day before yesterday eighteen dead bodies were found in a wheat field adjoining the ground, and yesterday eight more were found. In some places the wheat is fairly mowed down by the grape fired by Gen. Lyon's 64 pounder. I might fill pages with incidents of the battle, but I think you have heard all you wish to. All mail communication, or nearly all, is stopped at this point, so that the only sure way of sending our letters is by putting them aboard some government steamer and sending them to St. Louis.— We get but very little news here, the latest received from the seat of war in the east, being the evacuation of Harper's Ferry.

HORACE POOLE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., June 19, '61.

DEAR FRIENDS :—I gladly received yours of the 16th. The 17th of June passed off very quietly here, there not being so much as a gun fired. But I suppose they want to save their powder. Our company were on picket-guard all day and night. The garrison pickets are outside the walls—one half of the company guarding the ordinance department and the shore toward's Sewall's Point; the other, the beach and shore towards Hampton, to prevent spies from coming and boats landing. It was on this post that I was put, with thirty-one men; the countersign was "Bunker Hill," I suppose in honor of the day. But it is always the name of some battle, and the parole that of a General who was in it.

The battle of Big Bethel was a bad affair. It is generally conceded that it was a blunder all through. The Bethels are both small villages; one has got a large meeting-house, the other a small one, so they call one Big Bethel and the other Little Bethel. Characteristic of the Old Dominion, and in fact of the whole of the slave States, they are about one hundred years behind the times in everything. If at the battle of Big Bethel the order had been forward, instead of retreat, the victory would have been ours. There were 15 killed and 45 or 50 wounded. The wounded were brought in here, and I have for the first time seen the stern realities of war. There was one poor fellow shot through the chest, and both arms gone. who has since died; another, shot in the thigh, died to-day. But enough of this, you will say.

Our furniture is very simple, consisting of a table, two trunks, a bench (stuffed with straw), and a few dishes to eat out of. Our table was made by ourselves, out of a dry goods box, with four pieces of wood nailed on for legs, while the inside answers for a cupboard. Our bedding consists of straw, with mother earth for a bed. Having given you an idea how we look, I will now close.

Friday, June 21, 1861.

I have just come in from the picket guard, where I have been for the last twenty-four hours. The garrison was reinforced a day or two ago, in the shape of a baby, (a girl.) Both mother and child are doing well. The mother was the wife of one of the regulars who was

shot a short time ago at Hampton, for refusing to help raise a secession flag staff. She has been cooking for our Colonel for some time. Perhaps we shall adopt the little one as a daughter of the regiment.

I had the honor of heading the first expedition that our company has been on yet. Gen. Butler gave me orders to proceed over to the Hampton shore, by the way of the beach, where my guard were posted to capture a suspicious craft which had landed there. He said he could see, through his glass, the men skulking round in the woods with their guns and told me to take them, and the boat too, and bring them to the fort. I started with sixteen men over the beach, at a "double quick," the thermometer at 90 in the shade, and you may believe we sweat some.

Just after entering the woods, we came across two of the men, who wanted to know what we wanted? I informed them of my orders, and left a guard over the boat. I started through the woods after the others, and found them at a house about half a mile in the woods, drinking liquor. Having previously received orders to destroy all such "luxuries," and take all fire-arms, we turned the demijohns bottom up and took two fowling pieces, one of which was loaded and primed. We then took our two prisoners and marched them into the fort. They belonged to New York. Gen. Butler kept them a short time, and then let them go. So endeth our first scouting party.

Yours truly,

J. E. Smith

ALEXANDRIA, Va., July 4, 61.

DEAR FRIENDS: I improve the opportunity to write a few lines. We are all in good health here, and to-day is the Fourth of July, though I shouldn't have known it if I hadn't looked in the almanac, as it is as still as Sunday. However, we have had a pleasant time and have enjoyed a nice dinner of roast lamb, plum-pudding, currants, new potatoes, and lemonade with, and without, after which patriotic remarks were made and three cheers given for the Star Spangled Banner, three for the old Bay State, and also cheers for our officers. At 12 o'clock, a salute of 34 guns was fired and after that it was very quiet. At noon, the Zouaves here hung Jeff. Davis in effigy. A regular scaffold was erected, upon which the Southern Judas was standing with a rope affectionately twined about his neck, when suddenly the trap was sprung, the foundation seceded;

and the King of Cottondom dangled in the air, "the right man in the right place." I think hanging was too good for him though and that he ought to have been burned. You know that he was going to take dinner in Washington to-day after breakfasting here in Alexandria on his way; but he will hardly dine in Washington yet awhile. He cannot get into the city with 100,000 men, for it is guarded too strong and he knows it as well as we do. A citizen who has just come across the Long Bridge, says there are 500 rebel soldiers within ten miles of us and marching this way. They say it is the advance guard of the secessionists. Well, let them come; the boys are ready and anxiously waiting for them, for they say they don't want to go home without having some kind of a fight, and I hope they will, for they are ready for action at a moment's notice.

This has been a fine day, not so hot as it is some days, the mercury showing only 87, so that the boys have enjoyed it all the better. It is my day off the patrol. I hear the sergeant calling for us, and I must go. So good-bye.

HARDY MILLETT.